instead direct them to parallel marketing.

Dealership of Kerosene oil in Nalanda district

7825. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenders had been called through advertisement for kerosene oil dealership at Noor Sarai and Asthanwa in Nalanda district about one year ago, but still nothing has been done in this regard; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Kerosene dealerships at Noor Sarai and Asthanwa were advertised in March, 1988. Selection of dealers was held up due to termination of erstwhile Oil Selection Board in January, 1991. Both the locations have been readvertised in October, 1993 for selection of dealers through Oil Selection Board (Bihar). Applications received have been forwarded to the Oil Selection Board, Bihar for holding of interviews.

Consortium to develop oilfield in the country

7826. SHRI MATANG SINH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consortium of one Indian and two foreign companies is to develop an oilfield in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the investment involved, the period likely to be taken in the development of the oilfield and the annual estimated yield expected;

(c) the terms and conditions on which the consortium is to function; and

(d) how does the policy to promote foreign interests in the oil sector is considered beneficial to the country as against the domestic ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) As part of the policy of the Govt. to invite private investment in the development of discovered oil/gas fields, award of contracts for four medium-sized and 13 small-sized fields to Indian and foreign companies, either on their own or in consortium, have been approved.

(b) The investment involved, period required for developing these fields and the annual estimated yield would depend on the work programmes submitted by the companies.

(c) The fields would be developed under production sharing arrangements. While ONGC/OIL would take a 40% participating interest in the ventures formed for developing the medium-sized fields, they would not participate in the development of the small-sized fields. The parties in the joint venture would have to bear their share of statutory levies like royalty and cess. The private companies share of oil would be paid for at international market price; pricing of gas produced would be on internationally accepted principles.

(d) The involvement of private companies in the oil sector has a two-fold objective. Firstly, it would bring quickly into the production stream discovered hydrocarbon reserve in the country and thereby augment the indigenous availability of petroleum. Secondly, it would lead to intensification of exploration efforts in the country with the exploration activities of the private companies supplementing those of the public sector companies, thereby adding to the hydrocarbon reserve established.